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REMARKS**I. INTRODUCTION**

No new matter has been added. Thus, claims 1-21 remain pending in this application. It is respectfully submitted that based on the following remarks, all of the presently pending claims are in condition for allowance.

II. THE 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) REJECTIONS SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN

Claims 1-3, 6, 10, 11 and 15-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,760,444 to Leung (hereinafter "Leung") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,732,350 to Marko et al. (hereinafter "Marko"). (See 11/14/07 Office Action, p. 4).

Leung is directed toward a method and apparatus for authenticating a mobile node. A server is connected to multiple agents, which connect to a mobile node. Each mobile node has a home agent which provides a security association to the server. (See Leung Abstract). If a mobile node roams to a foreign agent, the foreign agent sends a registration request to the mobile node's home agent. (See Leung col. 2, ll. 5-10). The home agent performs a check on its own memory to determine if a previous association with said mobile node has been made. If no association has been made, a request is sent to the server for association. (See Leung col. 7, ll. 55-65).

Claim 1, in relevant part, recites, "when the roaming device roams to a particular access point of the access points, determining if the particular access point has authentication data associated with the roaming device." The Examiner asserts that this recitation of claim 1 is taught by Leung at column 7 lines 55-65. Applicants respectfully disagree.

In Leung, when the home agent performs a check of its own memory to determine a previous association, it does so only after receiving a registration request from a foreign agent. The mobile node is not connected directly to the home agent. Leung is directed to the situation

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where the mobile node has roamed from the home agent to the foreign agent. "When Mobile Node 6 engages with network segment 14, Foreign Agent 10 relays a registration request to Home Agent 8 (as indicated by the dotted line "Registration"). The Home and Foreign Agents may then negotiate the conditions of the Mobile Node's attachment to Foreign Agent 10." (See Leung col. 2, ll. 5-10). The foreign agent, which is connected to the mobile node, does not perform and check on its own memory to determine a previous association. It must send the association request to the home agent, where said check may be performed. In contrast, claim 1 recites, "when the roaming device roams to a particular access point of the access points, determining if *the particular access* point has authentication data associated with the roaming device." The memory check is performed at the access point to which the mobile device roams, not forwarded to a secondary agent as in Leung. Therefore, Applicants submit that Leung does not teach or suggest the above limitation of claim 1. Applicants further submit that Marko does not cure the above-described deficiencies of Leung with respect to claim 1. Thus, Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable over Leung and Marko. Because claims 2, 3 and 6 depend from, and therefore include all the limitations of claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also allowable for at least the same reasons given above with respect to claim 1.

Independent claim 10 recites, "authenticating the roaming device with the authentication server if the access point has no authentication data associated with the roaming device." Applicants submit that this claim is also allowable for at least the reasons stated above with respect to claim 1. Because claims 11 and 15 depend from, and therefore include all the limitations of claim 10, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also allowable for at least the same reasons given above with respect to claim 10.

Independent claim 16 recites, "wherein the authentication server sends the authentication data to the first and second access points upon an initial authentication procedure of the roaming device with the first access point when the first access point has no authentication data associated with the roaming device." Applicants submit that this claim is also allowable for at least the reasons stated above with respect to claim 1. Because claims 17 and 18 depend from, and therefore include all the limitations of claim 16, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also allowable for at least the same reasons given above with respect to claim 16.

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Claims 4 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Leung in view of Marko in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,408,683 to Ablay et al. (hereinafter "Ablay"). (See 11/14/07 Office Action, p. 10).

Applicants submit that Ablay does not cure the above-describe deficiencies of Leung and Marko with respect to claim 1. Because claims 4 and 5 depend from, and therefore include all the limitations of claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also allowable for at least the same reasons given above with respect to claim 1.

Claims 7, 8 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Leung in view of Marko in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,452,910 to Vij et al. (hereinafter "Vij"). (See 11/14/07 Office Action, p. 11).

Applicants submit that Vij does not cure the above-describe deficiencies of Leung and Marko with respect to claims 1 and 10. Because claims 7 and 8 depend from, and therefore include all the limitations of claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also allowable for at least the same reasons given above with respect to claim 1. Because claim 13 depends from, and therefore includes all the limitations of claim 10, it is respectfully submitted that this claim is also allowable for at least the same reasons given above with respect to claim 10.

Claims 9, 12 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Leung in view of Marko in further view of U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0174335 to Zhang et al. (hereinafter "Zhang"). (See 11/14/07 Office Action, p. 13).

Applicants submit that Zhang does not cure the above-describe deficiencies of Leung and Marko with respect to claims 1 and 10. Because claim 9 depends from, and therefore includes all the limitations of claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that this claim is also allowable for at least the same reasons given above with respect to claim 1. Because claims 12 and 14 depend from, and therefore include all the limitations of claim 10, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also allowable for at least the same reasons given above with respect to claim 10.

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Claim 19 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Leung in view of Zhang. (See 11/14/07 Office Action, p. 16).

Independent claim 19 recites, "with an authentication server, receiving an authentication request from a roaming device if the access point connected with the roaming device has no authentication data associated with the roaming device." Applicants submit that this claim is allowable for at least the same reasons stated above with respect to claim 1

Claim 20 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Leung in view of Zhang in further view of Marko. (See 11/14/07 Office Action, p. 18).

Applicants submit that Marko does not cure the above-describe deficiencies of Leung and Zhang with respect to claim 19. Because claim 20 depends from, and therefore includes all the limitations of claim 19, it is respectfully submitted that this claim is also allowable for at least the same reasons given above with respect to claim 19.

Claim 21 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Leung in view of Zhang in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,178,506 to Quick Jr. (hereinafter "Quick"). (See 11/14/07 Office Action, p. 18).

Applicants submit that Quick does not cure the above-describe deficiencies of Leung and Zhang with respect to claim 19. Because claim 21 depends from, and therefore includes all the limitations of claim 19, it is respectfully submitted that this claim is also allowable for at least the same reasons given above with respect to claim 19.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all the presently pending claims are in condition for allowance. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, an early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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